



# STATE SENATOR DENNIS OLSHOVE

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*Serving Center Line, Eastpointe, Fraser, St. Clair Shores and Warren*

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## STATE CAPITOL NEWS



*Dear Constituent:*

*I want to thank you for allowing me to represent you in the Michigan State Senate. It's an honor to continue to serve the good people of Macomb County in the Michigan Legislature.*

*While the experience has been great, the economic times have been difficult. Due to declining tax revenues, overly optimistic revenue projections, excessive use of one-time revenues and the continued phase-in of tax cuts, combined with a sagging economy, our state is facing a \$1.7 billion deficit. Hard decisions are going to have to be made in the upcoming weeks and months and I pledge to work with the Governor and my fellow legislators to assure that any cuts are thoughtful and fair.*

*I know that many of you count on these legislative updates as a means of keeping current with what is going on in Lansing. Unfortunately, due to budget cuts, this may be my only newsletter of the year. But there are many other ways to reach out to you and I will make every effort to keep you fully informed.*

*If you would like to reach me, contact information can be found on the front page of this newsletter. We have also put together a handy Senior Citizen Phone Guide as a service to our district's many senior citizens. I would encourage all seniors to cut out the guide and keep it in a visible place such as a refrigerator or bulletin board.*

*Thank you again for the honor of representing our area in the Michigan State Senate.*

*Dennis Olshove  
State Senator • 9th District*

## How To CONTACT ME

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# SENATOR OLSHOVE'S 2003 UPDATE

## Olshove Supports Plan To Reduce Prescription Drug Costs

Senator Olshove has taken a firm stance in support of controlling costs for our seniors. Senator Olshove supports the Multi-State Medicaid Pharmaceutical Pooling Program which combines the purchasing power of multiple states to generate greater discounts on the purchase of prescription drugs.

Michigan, Vermont, South Carolina, and Wisconsin have partnered on this initiative and other states may soon join as well.

## Olshove Endorses Stabilization Of Medicaid Reimbursement Rates

Medicaid does no good if there are no health care providers left who accept it. When states continue to cut provider reimbursement rates and benefits, doctors and hospitals stop accepting Medicaid.

Senator Olshove supports retaining current funding for Michigan's hospitals, physicians, and other health care providers.

At a time when many states are cutting benefits, Medicaid eligibility, and provider reimbursement rates, Senator Olshove is working to ensure a stable Michigan Medicaid program.

## Registration for "Do Not Call" List Begins This Summer

After a three-year struggle, a bill providing the public with protection from telemarketers was finally signed into law last December.

Congress recently followed Michigan's lead with the adoption of its own "do-not-call" bill. This means, beginning in July, consumers will be able to register, free of charge, to have their names added to a registry which will prevent most telemarketing phone calls.

To register, go to the website [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) or call toll-free at 1-888-382-1222. Once registered, calls should begin ceasing within one to three months.

## Better Staffing for Nursing Homes

Every day, Michigan families face difficult decisions about whether to move a loved one into a nursing home.

Senator Olshove supports legislation that would require that the staff-to-patient ratio not fall below one care provider to 15 nursing home residents during any 24-hour period.

This legislation would also require that there be at least one registered



## Senator Olshove Calls For Easier Access To Prescription Drugs

- Senator Olshove is calling for an expansion of the Elder Prescription Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program.
- With the Pharmacy-Plus Waiver currently awaiting approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Michigan will be able to expand its EPIC program to an additional 27,000 needy seniors and disabled individuals.
- The waiver will increase spending in the program from \$30 million to \$68 million.
- Currently, the EPIC program serves fewer than 15,000 individuals. With the waiver, EPIC will be available to more than 42,000.

# CAPITOL ISSUES

## Olshove Promotes Lake St. Clair Funding

**W**ith the introduction of two resolutions in the State Senate, Senator Dennis Olshove is attempting to garner additional federal funding and attention for the cleanup and preservation of Lake St. Clair.

Senate Resolution 91 would designate Lake St. Clair as the Heart of the Great Lakes. Senate Concurrent Resolution 2 would urge the Congress of the United States to designate Lake St. Clair as the sixth Great Lake.

“While this is only the first step in what could be a lengthy process, it is my hope that Lake St. Clair and all those who benefit from its practical, as well as recreational,

uses will see a funding increase that will preserve this treasure for years to come,” Olshove said.

Any potential funding increase would have a profound effect on the surrounding region. Lake St. Clair provides drinking water to nearly six million people. Guaranteeing the quality of water is crucial. Additional federal funding would help ease bacterial infection, sewage overflows, toxic contaminations, and agricultural run-off, as well as maintain clean beaches for all to enjoy. The potential environmental gains made in Lake St. Clair would affect the entire Great Lakes system.

Senator Olshove remains hopeful that the region will see the

necessary funding increases that many feel are well deserved.

“Lake St. Clair has been ignored far too long. It is high time we recognize this body of water as an equal to the current Great Lakes and, as a result, provide the funds Lake St. Clair so desperately needs.”



## Making Polluters Pay

- State Senator Olshove is supporting legislation which holds accountable the companies that discharge pollutants into our waterways.
- The legislation would create a \$1,000 permit fee which would be used to finance enforcement and compliance measures.
- Michigan is currently one of only eight states nationwide that does not charge polluters for these required permits.
- Senator Olshove feels that the taxpayers should not be solely responsible for picking up the tab for the enforcement of state and federal environmental regulations.

## SENIOR CITIZEN PHONE GUIDE

*Please Cut Out and Keep Somewhere Visible*

HEALTH/PRESCRIPTION DRUG ASSISTANCE

REFERRAL AGENCIES



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## CAPITOL VISITORS



*Senator Olshove and Representative Accavitti enjoy the performance of the East Detroit Oakwood Middle School band.*



*A group from East Detroit Leisure and Enrichment join Senator Olshove for a photo on the Senate floor.*



*Senator Olshove is joined by Mrs. Culhane's fourth and fifth graders from Lakeview Princeton Elementary School on the steps outside the Senate chamber in the State Capitol.*



*Senator Olshove and fourth grade students from Lakeshore Rodgers Elementary School on the front steps of the State Capitol.*



**MICHIGAN'S STATE**